AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, lines 26-33 as follows:

-- It was reasoned that amplification of a smaller region of the devR gene was likely to provide equivalent/better sensitivity with paucibacillary and smear negative samples. With this idea in mind two new primer pairs were designed to amplify shorter fragments of the devR gene. The `short target` PCR assays were assessed first on purified M. tuberculosis DNA and subsequently validated on clinical specimens. The `short target` primer pairs are, (i) devRf2 (SEQ ID NO. 1), ~~5' TGGCAACGGCATTGAACTGT 3'~~ and devRr2 (SEQ ID NO. 2), ~~5' TAAGCAGGCCCAGTAGCGT 3'~~ and (ii) devRf3 (SEQ ID NO. 3), ~~5' ATCTGTTGTCCCGCATGCC 3'~~ and devRr3 (SEQ ID NO. 4), ~~5' GTCCAGC GCCCACATCITT 3'~~. --